New Coal Mining Policy

313. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to withdraw the coal mining policy of 1979 and replace it with a more liberal mining policy; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the new proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new policy seeks to address the issue of coal mining by State Government Undertakings or companies.

Bifurcation of Mahanadi Coalfield

314. SHRI RAMCHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the bifurcation of Mahanadi Coalfield and open a new coal company at Talcher in view of huge deposits of coal in Orissa; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) At present, there is no such proposal for bifurcation of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

Non-supply of coal to Private entrepreneurs under linkage system

†315. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private entrepreneurs are not being supplied coal under linkage system during past several years;

(b) if so, since when and reasons therefor and the loss suffered by

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government on this account so far alongwith the details of persons responsible for it; and

(c) by when the supply of coal is proposed to be made to the private entrepreneurs under the said system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Public Sector coal mines in Andhra Pradesh

316. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 69 coal mines are functioning in Andhra Pradesh with public sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of these mines are having obsolete technology resulting in high operational cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government propose to take for the modernization of the coal mines in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Singareni